

**NORTH WEST REGIONAL FLOOD AND COASTAL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 18 JANUARY 2019 V2**

Present:

Adrian Lythgo (Chairman)
Councillor Keith Little (Cumbria Strategic Flood Risk Partnership)
Councillor Fred Jackson (Lancashire Strategic Flood Risk Partnership)
Councillor Stephen Clarke (Lancashire Strategic Flood Risk Partnership)
Councillor Alan Quinn (Greater Manchester Strategic Flood Risk Partnership)
Councillor Stuart Haslam (Greater Manchester Strategic Flood Risk Partnership)
Councillor Patrick McKinley (Merseyside Strategic Flood Risk Partnership)
Jo Harrison (EA Appointed Member – Water Industry)
Tayo Adebawale (EA Appointed Member – Sustainability)
Paul Barnes (EA Appointed Member – Agriculture)
Peter Bullard (EA Appointed Member – Conservation/ Natural Flood Management)
Neville Elstone (EA Appointed Member - Land Management)
Carl Green (Chair of the North West and North Wales Coastal Group)
Gill Weeks (Environment Agency Board Member)

Also in attendance:

Doug Coyle, Cumbria Strategic Flood Risk Partnership
Rachel Crompton, Lancashire Strategic Flood Risk Partnership
Clare Nolan-Barnes, Lancashire Strategic Flood Risk Partnership
Paul Blakeley, Lancashire Strategic Flood Risk Partnership
Jill Holden, Greater Manchester Flood Risk Partnership
Jim Turton, Cheshire Mid Mersey Flood Risk Partnership
Steve Berry, Cheshire Mid Mersey Flood Risk Partnership
Anthony Lane, Cumbria Strategic Flood Risk Partnership
Fran Comyn, Rochdale Borough Council
Laura Makeating, Merseyside Strategic Flood Risk Partnership
Sharma Jencitis, United Utilities

Visitors:

Gary Deakin, Director of JBA Consulting
Dominic Bradley, Principal Engineer, Atkins Global
Gareth Owen, Amey Consulting
Alice Cardew, United Utilities

Environment Agency officers present:

Lee Rawlinson, Greater Manchester Merseyside and Cheshire (GMMC) Area Director and RFCC Lead
Dan Bond, Area Flood Risk Manager, Cumbria and Lancashire (C&L)
Sally Whiting, Senior FCRM Advisor (GMMC)
Pete Costello, FCRM Partnerships and Strategic Overview Team Leader (GMMC)
Mary-Rose Muncaster, FCRM Partnerships and Strategic Overview Team Leader (GMMC)
Elizabeth Lowe, Local Authority Project Advisor (Merseyside)
Sarah Fontana, Local Authority Project Advisor (Greater Manchester)

Mike Walker, Local Authority Project Advisor (GMMC)
Yianni Baimas, Graduate Trainee, FCRM (GMMC)
Rachael Lavery, Graduate Trainee, FCRM (GMMC)
Rachel Harmer, RFCC Secretariat Officer

19 (01) WELCOME

Adrian Lythgo opened the meeting and advised he was pleased to welcome Members to Lancaster and Morecambe College. Adrian gave a warm welcome to Gary Deakin, Dominic Bradley and Gareth Owen, here to observe the meeting, and to Alice Cardew and Sharma Jencitis, both from United Utilities (UU) here to present items on the agenda.

19 (02) CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

Adrian highlighted his quarterly email update sent to Members on 21 December along with the FCERM Update Paper for December 2018.

Members were advised of the UKCP18 Science Overview Report, launched in November 2018. This report provides updated Climate Change Impacts and Adaptations, with a look at what's already happened and what's already in place. Members were advised this provides perspective for our NW RFCC Business Plan and future actions.

Adrian reflected on two Government consultations that are currently open:

- 'Review of local authorities relative needs and resources'
This Government consultation seeks views on the approach to measuring the relative needs and resources of local authorities, which will determine new baseline funding allocations for local authorities in England in 2020-21. The consultation covers funding for all services we deliver as Local Authorities and references activities of LLFAs as well as fees and charges. The consultation closes on 21 February 2019.
- 'Improving our management of water in the environment'
The Government wishes to know what you think about their proposals for improving long-term planning of water resources and drainage. They are also asking about their proposals to modernise water regulation and also want to begin discussions around raising funds to deal with flooding and coastal erosion. The consultation closes on 12 March 2019.

Adrian advised of the importance to provide evidence and information to Government for consideration and encouraged Members and Officers to review the consultation documents. Members were asked if they are to respond to either or both of the consultations, to provide a draft of your response before it is submitted in order for us to clarify any shared messages, which the RFCC can use to enforce the message.

Adrian provided an update on the status of the North West Vision in context of the new North West RFCC Business Plan, which is currently out for consultation until 8 February 2019.

Members were advised once the Business Plan has been adopted the Vision work will be incorporated into the business plan and will no longer be a standalone document.

Members were advised that no declarations of interest had been received.

19 (03) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Adrian Lythgo noted apologies for absence were received from: Councillor Don Stockton, Councillor Karen Shore and Councillor Paul Bates (Cheshire Mid Mersey Strategic Flood Risk Partnership); Councillor Neil Emmott (Greater Manchester Strategic Flood Risk Partnership); Lorraine Smyth (EA Appointed Member – Communities); Ian Irving (EA Appointed Member – Business and Private Sector); Tony Griffiths (United Utilities); Keith Ashcroft, Area Director (C&L), Christian Wilcox, Area Flood and Coastal Risk Manager (GMMC) and Stewart Mounsey, Area Flood and Coastal Risk Manager (C&L).

19 (04) ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Caroline Jackson from the Lune Valley Flood Forum attended the meeting. Siriol Hogg and Robert Hogg from the Churchtown Flood Action Group also attended.

19 (05) STRATEGIC FLOOD RISK PARTNERSHIP GROUP FLOOD UPDATES

Members received reports of flood incidents since the Committee meeting in October 2018.

Cumbria (Councillor Keith Little)

On 13 October 2018 one residential property internally flooded in Grasmere, due to ordinary watercourse and highway runoff. Members were advised mitigation measures were taking place - a culverted watercourse is in the process of being repaired and there is a scheme proposal for embankment work; 12 residential and 10 commercial properties flooded internally in Grange-over-Sands. This was a combination of surface water runoff, springs and incapacity in a main river culvert. EA/LLFA/Highways are looking at works to resolve flooding with GiA application; one residential property internally flooded in Egremont, due to surcharging drains. The Borough Council have arranged cleaning works on drainage systems; in Patterdale one residential property internally flooded due to a blockage in a culverted watercourse, which the landowner was to clear; in Great Asby one residential property internally flooded, due to main river flooding and in Kendal one residential property internally flooded due to groundwater sources – the property owners are to look at resilience measures.

On 3 November 2018 one residential property internally flooded in Grasmere – this was the same property that had flooded on 13 October. In St Bees one residential property internally flooded due to surface water and incapacity in the drainage system. CCTV and jetting work in the drainage system is to be carried out in the near future.

There were no reports of flooding in Cheshire Mid Mersey, Merseyside, Lancashire or Greater Manchester.

Adrian Lythgo thanked Keith Little for his update.

19 (06) DRAINAGE AND WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLANS (DWMPs)

Adrian Lythgo advised a number of surface water issues have recently been touched upon and highlighted the RFCC have discussed surface water and SuDs previously.

The UK Government's draft Strategic Policy Statement to Ofwat in 2017 and then Ofwat's PR19 methodology, indicated improvements were required in the approach to long term drainage and wastewater planning.

Alice Cardew advised the Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan framework was published in September 2018, which sets out the detailed methodology for the production of these long term plans. This builds on the Drainage Strategy Framework, tools developed by the 21st Century Drainage and aligns to the Water Resources Management Planning Framework.

Defra are currently consulting on making Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans statutory as part of their improving our management of water in the environment. All water companies are signed up to delivering one and RFCCs are being encouraged to share their thoughts with Defra.

This DWMP Framework has been initiated to develop best practice across the country and drive consistent industry wide improvements.

Members were advised the UU drainage plan is for the entire geography of the North West and for the first time there will be a statutory requirement, which must take account of climate change and waste water. The production of this plan will involve partnership working and UU will require engagement through and from the early stages of the process with LLFAs and the RFCC. Engagement will also take place with other members of the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) – Local Planning Authorities, Customers and Catchment hosts. Members were advised we need to understand where we are as a NW Region, where we are going to be, what we need to do and recognise that the timescales for this process are tight.

Alice advised UU are currently trying to understand the framework, its methodology and resource requirements, and are keen to meet people, particularly in local authorities, to discuss the process. Members were also advised to make UU aware of any pilot area suggestions.

Members noted there are a number of other statutory plans also in development with similar timescales.

Adrian Lythgo advised that clearly and generally from an RFCC perspective engagement with the process is very important. Peter Bullard commented on the difficulties of getting River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) and Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) integrated, as they do

not sit particularly well together and Members noted the challenge of how we differentiate between the RBMPs, FRMPs, and the DWMPs. How do the public get to understand this? Which is most important? Alice advised conversations have been taking place with the EA with regard to this, and with regard to the FRMPs and Catchment Flood Management Plans (CFMPs) it was noted it will be interesting to see how the alignment affects these.

Members noted the complexities of the whole system and the requirement of experts to guide the process as much of this will be complicated to explain to members of the public. Alice confirmed UU are establishing a team with a number of technical experts, who will say what the priorities and options are, which will then be fed back to the SPG.

There may also be a requirement for communities to help and provide support through the process and although Members' agreed with this, it was noted there is a large assumption that the general public will understand this process, which is not always the case. The Committee agreed the level of communication with the public needs to be right and is key to this process. There's a fundamental requirement to bring the public along with us.

Carl Green highlighted we also need to ensure the coast, and the Shoreline Management Plan also need to be considered.

Stephen Clarke commented on the challenge of significant outdated and old drainage in the North West and that many new developments connect to this old infrastructure. Stephen asked whether UU is doing enough to tackle the issue of capacity. Jo Harrison explained the steps UU are taking and do take with regard to planning and connection to the existing network.

Dan Bond advised he agrees with the ambition for more integrated planning, but confirmed that in reality we all have separate plans, but planning and engagement does not need to be separate and we can all work together on this.

Stephen Clarke commented that we need to engage better with planners. Alice explained that we have similar goals for our plans and to need to work together and UU would need to tailor the final products so they are more attractive and accessible.

Adrian Lythgo highlighted from an RFCC perspective, we are tasked with the understanding and the promoting of flood risk in the North West and need one visual representation of this across the North West. We need to ensure engagement is joined up and care should be taken in order to not confuse the public.

Members enquired if when approached by a property developer, do UU have the facility to feedback and challenge developers. Jo Harrison advised that UU's Developer Services Team are the interface between UU and the developers. UU are currently trying to propose different solutions for dealing with surface water, however this will be guidance only.

Jo advised the whole mantra in UU is about how they reduce sewer flooding from their network and advised there is a recognition of the current lack of ability to be able to control these issues and that UU recognise the big disconnect.

Fran Comyn advised from an LLFA perspective, they have had the same conversation on this subject for some time and challenged UU on what's going to be different this time? He advised the LLFAs work well at planning applications and smaller day to day issues, but there is a gap in the middle. Fran advised he would like to see real action and improvement through the DWMP approach. Alice Cardew advised the process will be more visible, as it's the first time a DWMP has been written.

Adrian Lythgo thanked Alice for the presentation.

19 (07) SuDS AND THE PLANNING FRAMEWORK

In response to the request from Councillor Stephen Clark at the October 2018 RFCC meeting, Members received a presentation on 'An introduction to the planning process' from Laura Makeating and Paul Blakeley.

Members received an overview of the planning process, the relevant stakeholders involved and their responsibilities. Information on the planning consultation process was provided and it was confirmed all planning applications are treated the same way and given the same level of scrutiny.

A background to legislation, policy and guidance was provided. We heard LLFAs are statutory consultees on planning developments, but are not statutory consultees on local plans.

Members noted that following consultation the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), originally done in 2012 was recently updated in 2018. An overview of the Surface Water Discharge Hierarchy was also provided, along with an overview of the assessment of planning applications at both the LLFA level and UU level and role of the LPA was clarified.

Adrian Lythgo advised provision of SUDs isn't necessarily a solution.

The Committee heard of a number of challenges in the North West, which include property developers building on areas of flood risk; lack of visible SuDs (green vs grey); discharge to public sewers and aging assets; and, understanding of Surface Water flood risk and the accuracy of Strategic Flood Risk Assessments.

Adrian Lythgo thanked Laura and Paul for their presentation and advised we need to ensure flood risk is visible and appropriately considered during the planning process, and acknowledged the whole series of issues around the planning process.

Members discussed a number of challenges in the North West, which includes the requirements contained within the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework to deliver thousands of homes in the next 20 years, which all need to be connected to existing drainage networks. The Committee heard how older homes are now at risk of surface water flooding, as new housing developments are built and connected to existing networks, which we not originally built or designed to cope with additional demands.

Members advised there is a maintenance obligation on the developer and asked how this is monitored? Do we really understand where these drains are going? – how do we understand? How do we get the Royal Town Planning Institute to take note?

Patrick McKinley advised he felt the NPPF is currently biased towards developers. He described a local issue involving 14 houses and advised if we cannot measure something that we cannot manage it. He also asked about the quality and the consistency of LFA strategic flood plans. Paul Blakeley advised it is down to the local planning authority to develop this document and they usually get a consultant to do this. Patrick McKinley advised that we need to develop a standard approach to this.

Tayo highlighted that many of these issues are national issues that occur across England and advised it's important for us to understand where the NW RFCC can contribute to and not necessarily lead, then the NW can concentrate on the local issues.

The Committee agreed with the requirement to work with developers.

Adrian Lythgo advised a consultation is currently out, which values biodiversity in the planning system and how developers will continue in the future.

In recognising the challenge for planning authorities Members agreed with the proposal to isolate what we think are our issues with the process, which can then be taken to the National RFCC Chairs' Meeting for further discussion.

It was discussed whether we would like to see specific NW guidance to improve the picture.

Lee Rawlinson suggested we should look at what the evidence is telling us and use this if we need to influence. He advised we do have existing guidance and processes, but is it being used and enforced? The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) have a bigger voice so how do we engage with MHCLG in this agenda?

Following discussion Members approved the suggestion for a working group to be established, who will carry out some technical thinking about what is in our control to do, which could lead to come local guidance being put in place. The group can identify specific issues that can be taken to a future RFCC Chairs' Meeting for further discussion.

ACTION: Laura Makeating, Jim Turton and Rachel Crompton

ACTION: Laura Makeating advised the link to information on how the SuDs framework is working in the planning process in Wales will be shared with Members.

19 (08) INTRODUCTION OF THE RFCC/UU PARTNERSHIP MANAGER

Members were introduced to Sharma Jencitis, who was appointed as the RFCC/UU Partnership Manager in November 2018.

The Committee received a brief overview of the work Sharma has been involved in, within UU over the past 18 months, and her work with external organisations with regard to flood risk.

Sharma advised as part of her role to encourage and influence better partnership working between UU, EA and LLFAs she has been travelling around the North West to obtain an understanding of how partnerships work and to gain an understanding the different types of flood risk in the different areas.

On a visit to the quarterly Northumberland Integrated Drainage Group Sharma met with Richard Robinson, who presented an item at the NW RFCC Benchmarking Surface Water Workshop in September 2018. EA representatives attended the meeting alongside LLFA officers, developers and mining community attendees. Sharma provided a brief overview of this meeting and advised the visit had been beneficial and on first thoughts it appears that the North West strategic partners are sharing more information than in Northumbria.

Sharma advised she is scheduled to meet with the Yorkshire and Trent RFCCs in the near future, with a look to identify any examples of best practice that the North West RFCC can adopt in order to work more effectively and efficiently and collaboratively, and to identify any points of risk we need to concentrate on.

Members were advised of the ongoing work to improve the quality of flood risk data in the North West. With regard to data sharing the Committee heard steps are being taken within UU to develop an online data sharing platform to house all risk management authorities flood data for ease of sharing. Clarification is needed to establish how we share this data online and how we display information to the public safely and freely? Members were advised this is still work in progress and there are lots of challenges and legalities to work through.

The Committee confirmed the update is very encouraging and the items covered in the update are key to getting maximum benefits of partnership working. Members were advised they will receive quarterly progress updates.

Adrian Lythgo thanked Sharma for her update.

19 (09) SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT VISION OVERVIEW

Tayo Adebawale provided Members with an overview to summarise the achievements of the work undertaken as part of the Sustainable Economic Vision theme over the last five years.

Members were advised flood risk management schemes are seen as key infrastructure, which can also deliver multiple benefits to a community and communities are being encouraged to shape schemes. Wider benefits of schemes include increased health, physical and mental wellbeing and Tayo highlighted the importance of measuring these impacts, which can also encourage people to be involved and further opportunities can come from this such as community and visual benefits.

Tayo was delighted to advise from 2015 to 2018 £14.5 million in non Local Levy contributions have been secured.

During 2019 to 2024 around £55 million in additional partnership funding is expected to be achieved towards 12 North West Flood Risk Management Schemes. The NW RFCC has been instrumental in the provision of Local Levy Funding and resources to attract these contributions during 2018/19. Work has been carried out to ensure that unfunded and underfunded projects gain funding and progress and deliver for residential and business properties as well as for future growth.

Some of the best successes have so far come from successful relationships with Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), especially in Cumbria and Lancashire, and with the combined local authorities and GMMC Local Authorities. In each of these cases shared flood priorities have either been developed or are developing. Members acknowledged the importance to continue to maintain and strengthen these relationships in the same way that the LEPs have administered the European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF) Programme (2014-2023) we also expect them to deliver on some elements of future funding alongside combined authorities.

Members heard of a research project with Lancaster University, which has been funded to investigate re-wetted land use, to see how land is flooded and can be used to grow alternative crops.

With a look to the future work will continue with the LEPs, and relationships with partners will be built upon ensuring a pipeline of funded and non funded schemes is in place. There is a need to understand the economics of schemes better in order to attract wider contributions, and be good at sharing and communicating what we have learned so far – monetary, economically and sustainable benefits.

Tayo advised the risk has always been if the theme has been too ambitious, but Tayo didn't think so and asked again at what point do we believe that a theme has been successful? The challenges with different funding sources and obligations were noted, but Members were advised the biggest challenge has been about working differently. Tayo touched upon what makes this RFCC so successful and advised we saw we could add additional value by bringing in other benefits in addition to houses.

Adrian Lythgo highlighted the similarities with the Slow the Flow (STF) theme and advised it will continue into new Business Plan moving forwards. Like STF this work will be moved from visionary to mainstream and Peter Bullard thanked Tayo and advised of this great achievement. Gill Weeks advised it is stunning to be able to achieve this and gave congratulations to all who have been involved.

The EA are now looking at the next FCERM Strategy, recognising economic and social benefits and the consultation on this will be launched shortly.

Tayo advised the Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM) did a talk at a recent UU meeting to discuss Natural capital. Laura Makeating advised herself and

Steve Berry are currently carrying out a piece of work regarding flood risks to key infrastructure, which feeds into the Natural Capital Accounting Tool.

Adrian Lythgo thanked Tayo for her presentation and Members for the discussion. Tayo thanked Anne-Marie Quibell for all her hard work.

19 (10) UPDATE FROM THE NORTH WEST COASTAL GROUP

Carl Green wished members a Happy New Year and reflected on the past 12 months, which have seen a significant amount of progress in better protecting our coastal communities and also preparing the groundwork for a more cohesive and focused future.

18,900 homes were better protected from flooding during 2018 through the completion of two coastal defence schemes at Morecambe and Fleetwood. These two major infrastructure schemes have not only better protected a significant number of families and businesses from flooding, they have created public spaces that will provide a lasting legacy to be enjoyed by local communities and visitors. Members heard the value of the works can be measured in damages prevented (over £1billion) and economic benefits deriving directly from the works (£116million). However the wider benefits including social cohesion, physical and mental health, and environmental, economic, social and culture wellbeing significantly outweigh the economic factors.

Members were advised of the excellent progress being made on the Fairhaven to Church Scar scheme at Lytham St Annes. The £22 million scheme, to be delivered during 2019, to protect 2,400 properties is ahead of schedule and has recently been awarded funding to bring forward the Granny's Bay section of the works.

Carl Green also advised works to provide better protection to 567 homes and 104 businesses at West Kirby have been approved, with construction starting this year. The £3 million scheme will construct a new floodwall that has been developed closely with local people along the length of the promenade. It is envisaged the Committee will visit the scheme during 2020.

In looking to the future a number of coastal strategies and schemes are currently being prepared. The Cumbria Coastal Strategy, which is a strategic document looking at policies in different areas of the Cumbria coastline and one of the biggest strategies in the country, held public consultations on options during December, which will feed into the final strategy during 2019. This strategy builds upon the policy options developed in the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) which itself is being refreshed to ensure it is still fit for purpose and is accessible to decision makers. The North West SMP Action Plan update is due to be completed by April 2019.

Members were advised in a speech given by Michael Gove on 26 November was an indicator to future policy which was set out initially in the Government 25 Year Environment Plan. This set an objective to reduce risk of harm from flooding and coastal erosion, with a focus on natural flood management solutions. It stated that we need our communities and infrastructure to be better prepared for floods and coastal change, so that they recover more quickly from the damage and disruption and, where necessary, to help people and communities move out of harm's way. Carl Green advised it will be interesting to see how this is reflected in the FCERM Strategy and

DEFRA's Long Term Policy Statement on flooding and coastal erosion which will be published in 2019. Moving communities out of harms way will be a definite challenge to deliver.

Members then heard a number of priorities for the Coastal Group, which includes: the development and implementation of a North West coastal asset database; the development of a network of real-time coastal monitoring; supporting and monitoring the impact of the Coast Waters project; to play an active role in the development of the national FCERM strategy and the development of improved mechanisms for coastal communities to be better informed of and able to adapt to coastal change.

Adrian Lythgo thanked Carl for his report.

19 (11) MINUTES OF THE RFCC MEETING HELD ON 19 OCTOBER 2018

The Committee approved the minutes of the RFCC Meeting held on 19 October 2018.

19 (12) REPORT FROM THE RFCC FINANCE SUB GROUP MEETING

The following Finance Sub-Group papers were provided for this item:

Minutes from the RFCC Finance Sub Group – 7 January 2019

Report to the RFCC Finance Sub Group – 7 January 2019

Dan Bond summarised the report, which provides an overview of the NW RFCC 6 year investment programme 2015 – 2021. It summarises the outcomes we have already delivered, progress on delivering the programme this year, and reports on the refresh of the investment programme for future years. Members noted the information contained within the report are the end of November 2018 figures.

Key points noted were:

Nationally we are on track to meet the target of 300,000 homes better protected from flooding with over 140,000 better protected so far. However there is still a lot to do and there remains considerable risk around delivering the remaining projects.

Within the North West we are contributing around 45,000 (indicative maximum figure) homes better protected towards the 300,000 target.

Nationally the programme remains dependent on securing significant partnership contributions but in the North West while we still need to ensure contributions are secured and forthcoming, this is not a significant limiting factor for delivery of our programme up to 2021.

On the 10% efficiency target, at a national level we are currently slightly below our increased 6 year efficiency target. For the North West we have achieved 54% of our target which is behind

where we should be in Year 4 of the 6-year programme. There are ongoing challenges in meeting the target going forwards.

DELIVERY OF THE 2018/19 CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

Members were advised there has been good progress in the North West this year, predominately on the big coastal schemes. We are ahead of the housing target and are ahead of schedule on some schemes.

Forecasts at the end of November 2018 indicated we will better protect 7,437 homes from flooding and coastal erosion this year. This will be a total of 34,093 homes better protected since 2015. This forecast is 2,775 more than the 4,662 target due largely to accelerated delivery of the Morecambe Wave Reflection Wall.

The Committee heard the total capital funding available to the North West RFCC 2018/19 programme is £52.3 million. This includes £41.5 million of central Government FCRM Grant-in-Aid (FCRMGiA), £4.3 million of Local Levy and £6.5 million of Partnership Funding Contributions.

Spend forecasts to the end of November showed that we were expecting to draw down £55.3 million – that is £3.051 million more than allocated. This forecast has increased since last reported due primarily to additional costs of £3.8 million being claimed against the completed Rossall Sea Defences Scheme (Wyre BC).

Members heard spend forecasts to the end of November for the NW RFCC Local Levy element of the programme indicate we will draw down £0.6 million less than has been allocated this year. This is due primarily to deferring work into 2019/20 for the Cumbria County Council Penrith Rd, Keswick Scheme and the EA Trawden Brook Scheme in Lancashire.

REVENUE MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME

EA revenue funding for the North West currently totals £19.1 million and forecasts to the end of November 2018 indicated a £0.6 million overspend that may need to be managed back to available budget.

The GiA revenue maintenance final indicative allocation of remains the same as the draft presented to the Committee in October 2018. This allocation remains £181k less than 2018/19 due mainly to a reduction in the unscheduled allocation, but represents 10% of the £110 million national total.

With regard to the revenue maintenance programme, the Committee heard the consented programme will go online once it has been ratified by the RFCC.

LOCAL LEVY PROGRAMME 2018/2019 – 2022/2023

The local levy programme for 2018/19 totals £4.247 million. The Committee heard that the programme now includes the funding for the Local Levy requests supported by the RFCC at the last meeting in October 2018.

Members heard forecasts at the end of November 2018 indicated we will draw down £0.6 million less than the current allocation, and noted the updated scenario of income and expenditure.

Resolved: The Committee:

- noted the progress report on the 2018/19 programme
- noted the performance on delivering the 2018/19 capital/revenue programmes.
- noted the updated scenario of Local Levy income and expenditure
- consented to the final draft capital programme allocation for 2019/20
- consented to the final draft revenue maintenance programme allocation for 2019/20
- Approved the Local Levy programme for 2019/20

19 (13) MATTERS ARISING AND ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING

The Committee agreed the actions and matters arising from the last meeting on 19 October 2018.

19 (14) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no further items of business.

19 (15) SALFORD WETLANDS FILM

The Broughton Trust has produced a short film about the new Salford wetland, which has been established by the building of the Salford Second Flood Basin. Due to time restrictions the film was shown over lunch and was well received by Members and visitors.

19 (16) DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Dates of future RFCC meetings:

Friday, 12 April 2019

Friday, 19 July 2019

Friday, 18 October 2019

Dates of future RFCC Finance Sub Group Meetings:

Friday, 29 March 2019

Friday, 5 July 2019

Friday, 4 October 2019

